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No. 155

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 1, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Tom Dore, Pastor Emeritus, St. Giles Parish, Oak Park, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, the Members of the United States House of Representatives have been given the awesome responsibility and privilege of the stewardship of governance by the citizens of our country. They must be truly grateful for the trust placed in them by those same citizens.

Today, I ask for Your gift of wisdom, right judgment and hearts and minds open to Your Spirit.

I pray for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration as they seek to guide our country as it faces the many significant challenges both nationally and internationally.

Although there may be differences on how to accomplish specific goals, the Members of the House must always keep in mind the inspiring vision of our Founders—the common good of the people they serve.

Gracious and loving God, be with them in their deliberations, for without Your help and guidance, the deliberations may prove limited and disappointing.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 6162. An act to provide research and development authority for alternative coinage materials to the Secretary of the Treasury, increase congressional oversight over coin production, and ensure the continuity of certain numismatic items.

H.R. 6166. An act to authorize the production of palladium bullion coins to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3386. An act to protect consumers from certain aggressive sales tactics on the Internet.

S. 3987. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to the applicability of identity theft guidelines to creditors.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 107-12, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Lead-

er, appoints the following individual as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board:

Albert H. Gillespie of Nevada vice Thomas J. Scotto of New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the elephant in the room—the expiration of the tax rates that will occur 31 days from now.

We all agree that it is imperative that we work together to provide America's working-class families with tax relief as soon as possible. That is why I applaud the President for meeting with Members from the House and Senate in order to forge a bipartisan compromise.

But to be fair, this past September, I, along with Messrs. CAPUANO, HIGGINS and OWENS, proposed a compromise that provides tax relief for American families and that gives Congress the fiscal flexibility to address our long-term deficit. I am proud to say that the Joint Committee on Taxation has confirmed that this plan costs significantly less and provides greater flexibility to reduce the national debt.

Our compromise includes a 5-year extension of the middle class tax rates and the current rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends, costing \$801.5 billion; and a 1-year extension of the current rates for income earned between \$250,000 and \$500,000, costing \$8.27 billion.

This plan is better than the \$2.2 trillion over 10 years which is now before

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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